

F-7-82

George E. House Farmstead
Urbana vicinity
Private

1845-1868

The George E. House Farmstead is centered on a two-story stone dwelling dated 1856 on the exterior walls and its associated stone springhouse, built about 1845, and a circa 1890-1900 frame bank barn. The house has a four-bay main elevation with double entrances and 6/6 sash with plain architraves. The two-story rear wing was added in two segments between 1856 and about 1868, replacing a log dwelling built in about 1845 which adjoined the stone main section. The wing has slightly peaked frames on the window openings on the south elevation and the second story of the north elevation. The interior of the structure has been considerably altered in plain with the removal of some interior walls and mantelpieces. The springhouse has a slate roof and a two-room plan with an extended hood over the entrance on the east elevation. The bank barn has board and batten siding and louvred arched vents. George E. House (1820-1904) settled the property in 1845 and built the farm to a total of 263 acres by 1900. He was also responsible for building the Bennett's Creek M. E. Chapel on his land about 1856. It was replaced by a frame church in 1881 and removed to Urbana in 1933 to become the parish hall of the present Urbana Methodist Church. The farmstead is moderately significant for the architecture and technology of the stone buildings, which are typical examples of German-influenced vernacular structures of the mid 19th century.

F-7-82

George E. House Farmstead

Urbana

Frederick County

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

(Harford, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Howard, Montgomery
Counties, and Baltimore City)

Chronological/Development Period:

Agricultural-Industrial Transition, A.D. 1815-1870

Industrial/Urban Dominance, A.D. 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Themes:

Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Community Planning

Resource Types:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function and Use:

Domestic/single dwelling/residence

Domestic/secondary structure/other dependencies

Agriculture/subsistence/animal facility/barn

Known Design Source: None

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☒ no**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic George E. House Farmstead

and/or common

2. Locationstreet & number 2220 Thurston Road ☐ not for publicationcity, town Urbana ☒ vicinity of congressional district 6th

state Maryland county Frederick

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name John C. Warfield

street & number P.O. Box 77 telephone no.:

city, town Frederick state and zip code MD 21701

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick County Courthouse liber 1079

street & number 100 W. Patrick Street folio 256

city, town Frederick state MD 21701

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. F-7-82

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE COUNT: 3

The George E. House Farmstead is an originally agricultural complex, now primarily a private residence, centered on a stone two-story dwelling dated 1856 on the exterior walls and two contributing outbuildings, a stone springhouse of about 1845 and a frame bank barn of about 1900. The farmstead is located on the southwest side of Thurston Road just north of Bennett Creek near Urbana, Frederick County, Maryland. The dwelling and the agricultural outbuildings are closely built to the edge of the road, with a stone retaining wall in front of the east elevation of the house, where the roadbed is about six feet above the level of the front doorway. The agricultural building group to the north is separated from the dwelling by about 30 yards and a stand of pine trees. Several non-contributing frame and concrete block sheds and stables and a silo surround the circa 1900 bank barn. The springhouse is located on the flat, open creek flood plain to the west about the same distance from the dwelling.

The house has a four-bay main section with a two-story perpendicular wing extending to the west from the northwest corner. Two stones dated 1856 are located near the base of the main section at the southwest corner and near the cornice on the southeast corner. A modern stone terrace has been built on the north side of the wing and a similar terrace surrounded by a low stone wall adjoins the south side of the wing. A replacement second story open porch deck extends across the south side of the wing, with the iron framework of an awning along the lower edge. The roof is composition material and interior end chimneys are located at the north and south gable ends, at the junction of the main section and the wing, and at the west interior gable end of the wing. The east elevation has two entries in the inner bays with stone lintels and sills and 6-panel doors. The windows are 6/6 and the second story openings have wood sills. The frames have mortise-and-tenoned plain architraves and the second story openings are just below the boxed cornice. The south and north elevations have only two small attic level openings flanking the chimney at each end. The rear wing was built in two stages during the period about 1856 to 1868, according to a biographical sketch in the Williams and McKinsey History of Frederick County of 1910. A clearly defined joint line on the north elevation between the main section and the wing confirms the separate building periods. According to the biographical account, the original log residence on the site, built about 1845, became the rear wing of the 1856 stone main section and was itself replaced by an enlarged stone rear wing which incorporated the original stone chimney stack of the log structure. The stone of the wing closely matches that of the 1856 section in size and color, the only visible difference between the two sections being the slightly peaked window and door lintels on the south elevation. The north elevation of the wing has plain flat arches in the openings. Four-panel doors open on both the north and south sides of the wing and on the second story of the south elevation. The west end of the wing reveals a carport dug out under the modern terrace adjoining the stone foundation of the wing. The interior of the house has been considerably altered, with the wing's original cross partition wall removed and other changes to the floor plan in the main section. No original mantelpieces remain intact. According to Mr. John Warfield, the current owner, the house had been divided into two units during the early 20th century prior to the late 1930's.

8. Significance

Survey No. F-7-82

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1845-1868

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The George E. House Farmstead is moderately significant for the exterior stonemasonry of the dwelling and the springhouse, both of which exemplify the stone building technology of the mid 19th century in Frederick County. Stone dwellings and outbuildings were common in the Urbana Region, where abundant outcrops along the lower slopes of Sugarloaf Mountain and along the stream valleys provided ready building materials. The dwelling is typical in style of vernacular German-influenced houses in its double entries, four-bay facade, and rear wing. George Elijah House (1820-1904) married Ann Burnside in 1845 and began farming the property the same year. In 1852, he purchased his first parcel of 49 acres, with subsequent purchases through the second half of the 19th century eventually totaling 63 acres. The first dwelling on the farm was a one-room log house and probably was accompanied by the stone springhouse which still stands. The log structure became the rear wing of the stone house built in 1856 and was subsequently replaced by an extended stone rear wing. Almost illegible initials inscribed on the datestone at the southwest corner may be those of House and his wife. The House family retained the property until 1918.

According to the 1910 History of Frederick County, House was responsible for the building of the original Bennett's Creek Methodist Episcopal Chapel in 1856, a log structure which served about four families in the vicinity. The church stood on House's property north of the farmstead and was replaced in 1881 with a frame structure. It was also known as "House's Chapel". In 1933, the structure was donated to the Wesley Chapel of the Methodist Church at Urbana and was moved to the town and rebuilt next to the brick church to serve as the parish hall. It was later covered with brick veneer.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. F-7-82

Bond, Isaac. Map of Frederick County, 1858.

History and Legends of Urbana Election District. Urbana Civic Association, 1976, p. 26.

Land Records of Frederick County

Titus, C.O. Atlas of Frederick County, 1873

(Continued on separate sheet)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 5 acresQuadrangle name Urbana, Md.Quadrangle scale 1:24000UTM References do NOT complete UTM referencesA

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Zone Easting NorthingB

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Zone Easting NorthingC

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D

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Approximately 5 acres centered on the dwelling on Tax Map 105, Parcel 63.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Janet L. Davis, Historic Sites Surveyororganization Frederick County Planning & Zoning Dept. date December 1993street & number 12 E. Church Street telephone 696-2958city or town Frederick state MD 21701

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
514-7600

PS-2746

7.1 Description (Continued)

Springhouse: The stone springhouse in the creek flood plain is a small rectangular structure with a deteriorated slate roof extended over the east gable end to shelter the entrance. The spring itself is just east of the building and flows through the foundation toward the creek to the west. The interior of the springhouse appears to have two rooms, with a window opening in the west end. The exterior walls have been heavily repointed and the north side of the building is markedly concave. The springhouse probably was built about 1845, the date of George E. House's settlement on the property, and was associated with the original log structure which the stone wing of the present house superceded in the 1860's.

Bank barn: The frame bank barn appears to date from about 1890-1900 based on its board and batten siding and louvred vents, which are similar to details of other late 19th century barns in the Urbana vicinity. The roof is corrugated metal. A non-contributing terra cotta silo is located next to the ramp on the east side of the barn. Adjoining the barn on the north gable end are frame sheds probably added in the late 1940's which contain horse stalls.

George E. House Farmstead
Frederick County

Survey No. F-7-82

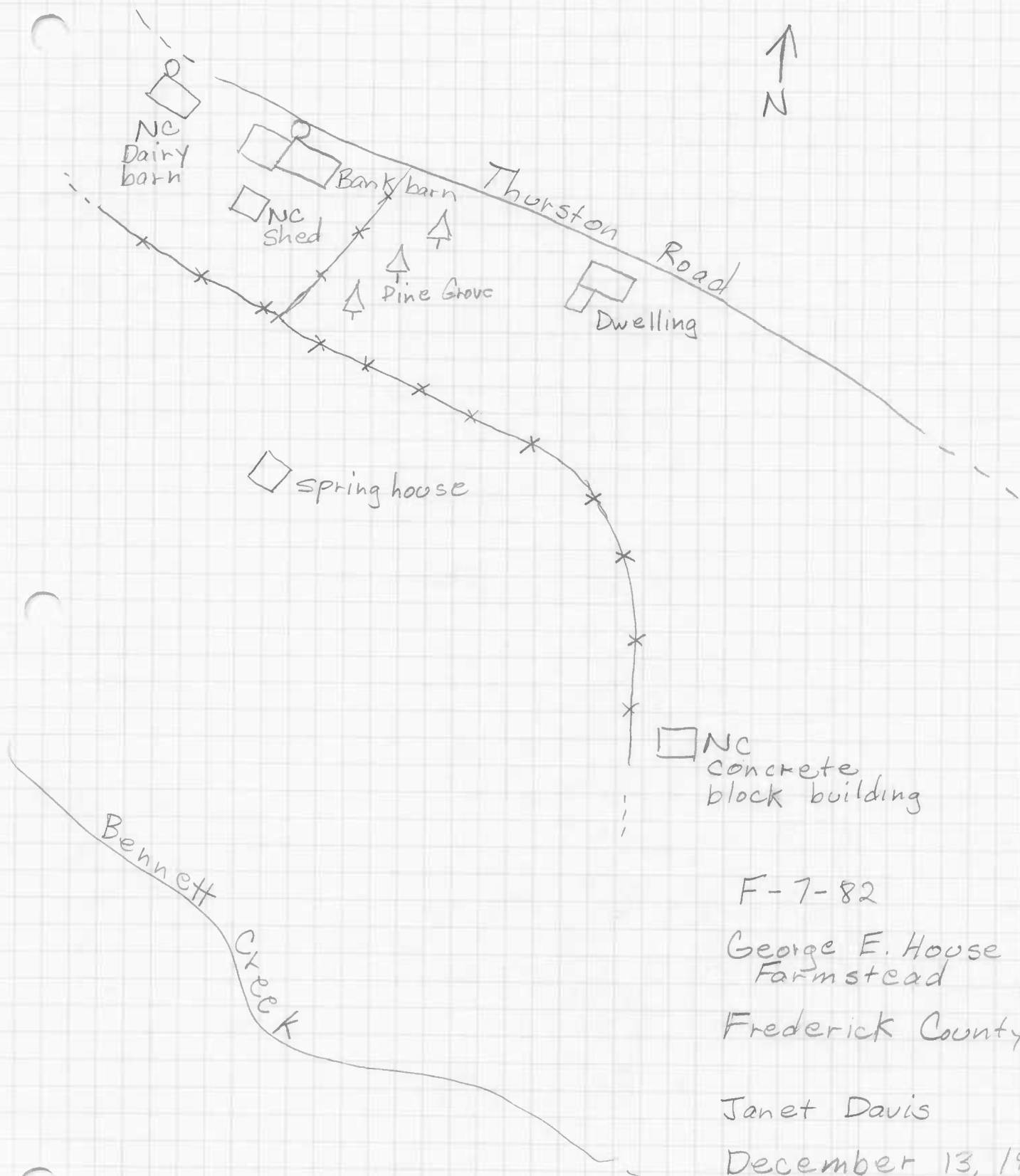
9.1 Bibliography (Continued)

Williams, T.J.C., and Folger McKinsey. History of Frederick County, 1910.
Reprinted Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1979, p. 915.

2220 Thurston

Liber/Folio	Grantee	Grantor	Lot Size, Description, Original Tracts, Miscellaneous	Cost
1079/256 27 Feb 79	John C. Warfield	Robt. S. & Richard J. Warfield	263 A. Mill Record TME 6/372 13 Oct 70	
434/286 17 Jun 42	Robert L. Warfield	F & M Natl Bank trustee under LW & T of Mabel M. Warfield	Equity 14,632 Mill Record RLL 1/135 P. 1: 263 A.	
411/155 3 Aug 37	Robert L. & Mabel M. Warfield	James H. Falk	263A. known as the Charles Edwin Poole Farm	
411/155 3 Aug 37	James H. Falk	Mabel M. & Robert L. Warfield		
407/234 27 Apr 37	Mabel M. Warfield	Leo Weinberg, trustee, & Charles Wertheimer,	263A. Weinberg & Wertheimer were trustees of mortgage from C. E. & Emma H. Poole Equity 12832 & 13485	#4,000
407/117 27 Apr 37	Leo Weinberg et al, trustee	Leo Weinberg assignee of & Charles Wertheimer		#2700
328/304 26 May 19	Charles E. & Emma H. Poole	Clara Lowen- stein & Leo Weinberg execs. of LW & T of David Lowenstein, et al		
324/361 6 Apr 18	David Lowenstein & Charles Wertheimer	John W. T. House & Charles S. House, execs.	263A. composed of 6 parcels acquired by House from 1852 to 1900 et al of LW & T of George E. House, dec.	#13,150
First Parcel BGF 2/343 14 Apr 1852	George E. House	Charles Johnson	49 A., 2 R., 27 P. DE part of "Bloomsbury", part of the Southern Division of real estate of Roger Johnson DHH 11/374 4 Apr 01 Bennetts Ceed M. F. Church	#816

F-7-82



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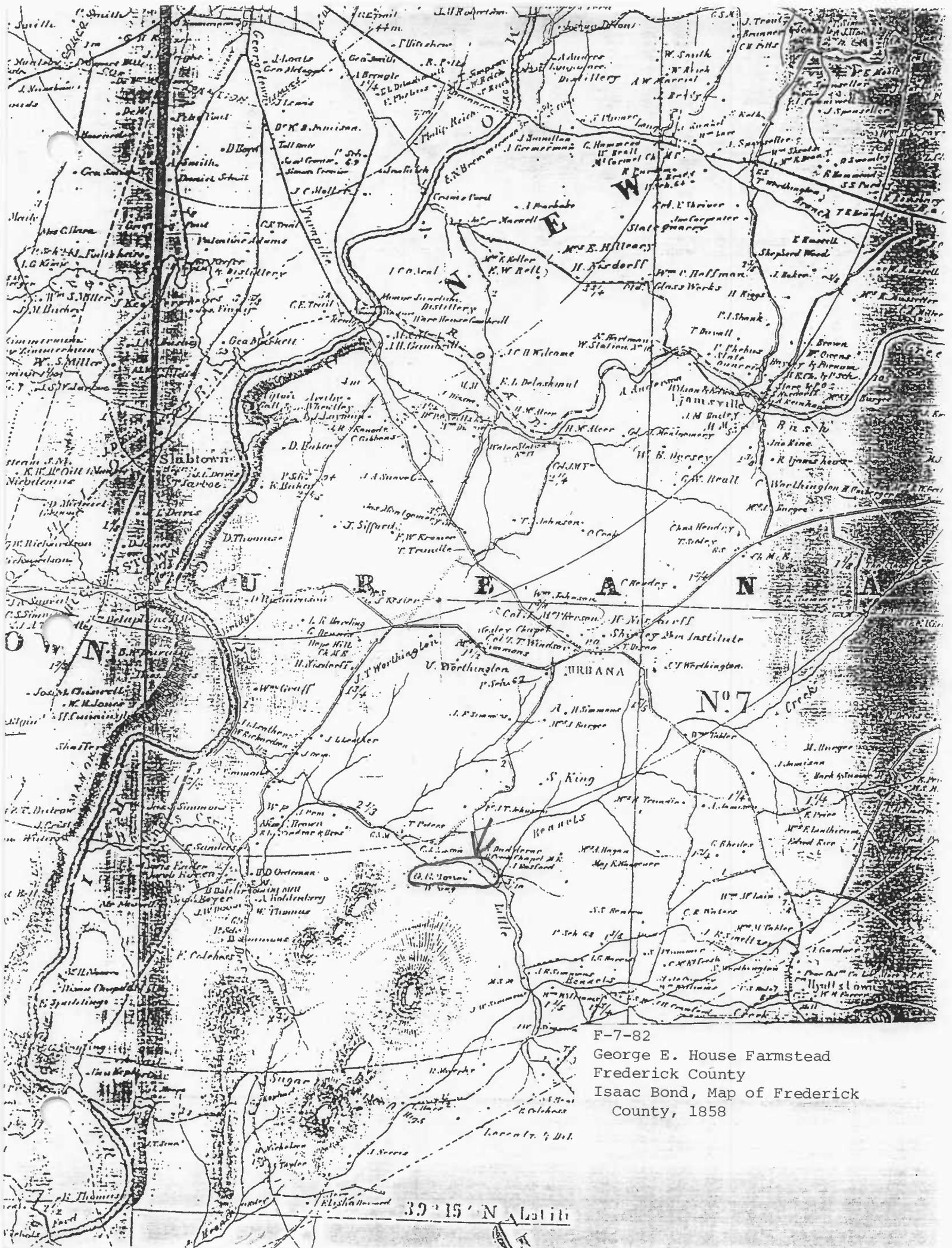
George E. House
Farmstead

Frederick County

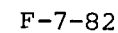
Janet Davis

December 13, 1993

Not to Scale



Scale 1 1/2 inches to an mile



George E. House Farmstead
Frederick County
C.O. Titus, Atlas of Frederick
County, 1873

GEORGE

